#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LAND USE REPORT - November 13, 2013

CASE NO:

BAC-145-13: 605 E. Washington

APPLICANT:

MONTESSORI SCHOOL FOR SHREVEPORT

District: C/ O. Jenkins District: 3/Williams

LAND OWNER:

Ralph Joe Dalton

LOCATION:

SE corner of E. Washing & C. E. Calloway Blvd.

ZONING:

Administrative Appeal in a B-2 District

PROPOSED:

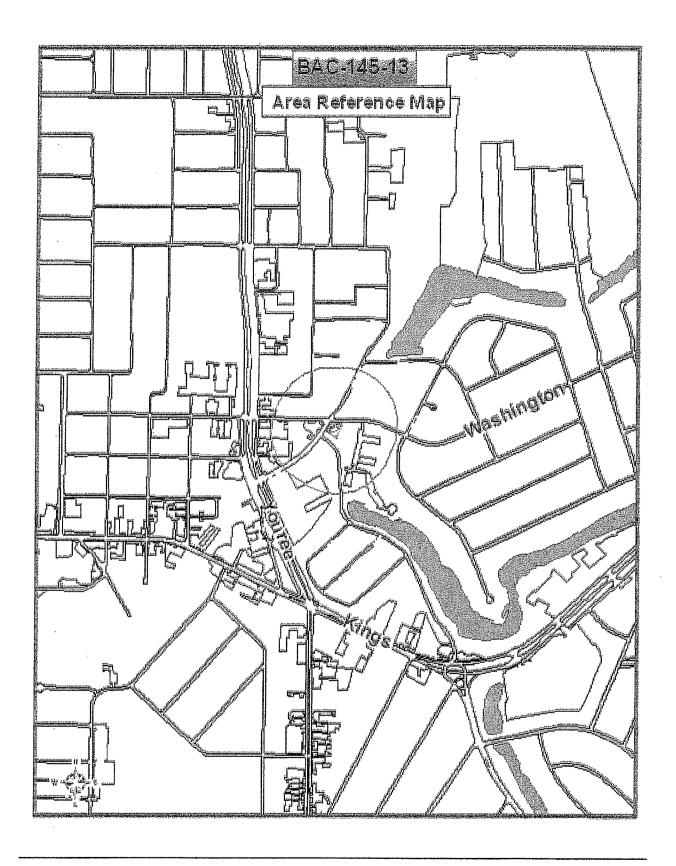
Appealing the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy

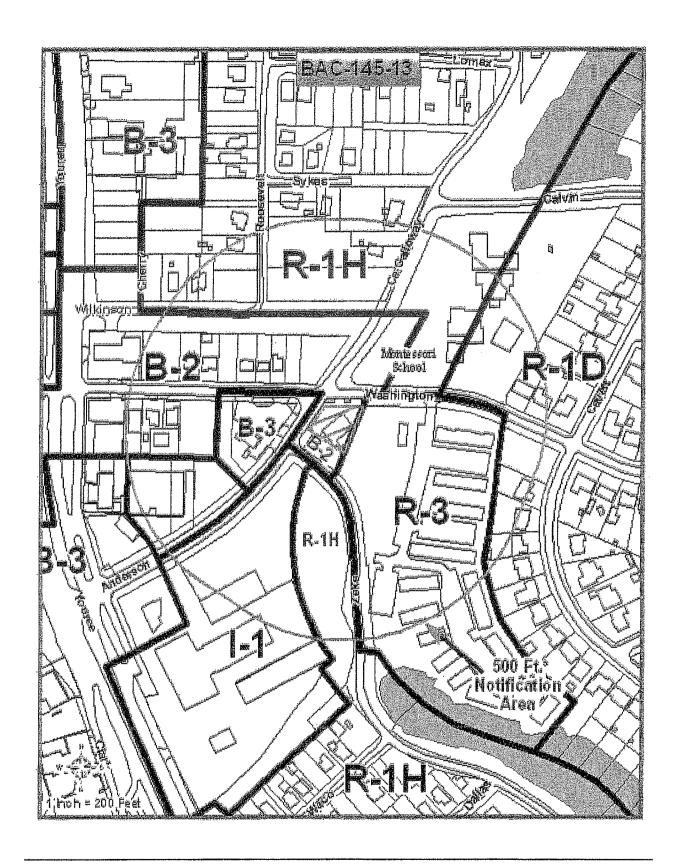
#### **PUBLIC'S ASSESSMENT**

14 spoke in support; 88 people stood in support. 6 spoke in opposition; 11 stood in opposition.

#### **BOARD'S DECISION**

The Board voted 5-0 to approve the appeal of the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy to B.i. Incorporated.





APPLICATION:	X CITY CASE	PARISH CASE
APPLICANT'S NAME: Donal	ld B. Wiener, Wiener, We	Iss & Madison, PLC
PEOPLE REPRESENTED BY	APPLICANT other than self or prop	erty owner (if public information).
Montessori School f	or Shreveport	
MAILING ADDRESS FOR ALL	CORRESPONDENCE:	PHONE: (318) 213-9271
Shreveport, LA	ZIP	(between 8:00 & 5:00) CODE: 71120-199@AX: (318) 424-5128
Attn: Donald B. Wi SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUE	ener	
Church Use	Mobile Home Secondary	Residential Structure
Package Liquor	Package Beer Package v	vine & beer (high alcoholic content wine & beer)
Drive thru or pick up wir	ndow Tavern (beer only)	Lounge (high alcoholic content beverages)
*Restaurant with Beer s	ales only*Restaurant with	Liquor & Beer sales
*Please Note- Restaurant use w	e requires that a minimum of 60% o vith no more than 40% from the sal	of total restaurant sales shall be from the sale of food e of alcohol and.or beer.
Other		
VARIANCE REQUEST:		
Front Yard Side Yard	d Rear Yard Site Al	rea Parking Hours of Operation
Other		
EXISTING ZONING:	EXISTIN	G <sup>°</sup> USE:
PROPOSED USE:		
ADDRESS OF SITE: 605 Eas	st Washington, Shreveport	LA 71104
Gene	eral block numbers will be sufficient	for undeveloped property
ASSESSORS ACCOUNT NUMB	ER: <u>171308-001-0017-00</u>	
EGAL DESCRIPTION:	Found on tax notice - example; 1	/1413-057-0047-00
A Tr. of land in the N	W/4 of Sec. 8 (17-13) ly	ing S. of E. Washington St. and E. of
Anderson Ave., per Ass	r's Plat 171308-1-17	
LL owners must sign. All prop nd that power of attorney is subn	erty owners must sign unless one partited with the application. A mana naging partner" by the signature. It	RS: The property owner's signature is mandatory, person has the power of attorney to sign for others ging partner in a corporation may sign and submit in business name or corporation, list all persons
lame	Name	Name:
ddress	Address	Address
ignature	Signature	Signature



# Certificate of Occupancy Office of Zoning Administration CITY OF SHREVEPORT, LA

DATE OF ISSUANCE: 08-28-2013

CERTIFICATE NO: COC1300531

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ASSUED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ALL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT PERTINENT THERETO:

name of business: <u>bil inc monitoring technology</u>

ADDRESS: 605 E WASHINGTON ST SHRV

PHONE:

TYPE OF BUSINESS: MONITOR & PRISONER RE-ENTRY PRO

(NOTE: MUST BE A USE LISTED IN THE ZONING ORDINANCE)

PROPERTY ZONED: <u>B-2</u>	CASE NO. IF APPLICABLE:EXPIRES IF APPLICABLE:
REMARKS:	EAR IRES IF AFFERCADUR:
OPERATING HOURS 7AM-10PM	
NOT A SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESS	
OTHER COMMENTS:	•
	·
OWNER OF BUSINESS: B.I. INC	
	•
·	
•	•
ALAN CLARKE	1 ( lah a
	TURE OF ISSUING OFFICIAL
·	
THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT AN OCCUPATE	IONAL LICENSE (PLACE IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE)
CERTIFICATE NO: COC1300531	at at Canananan
	ate of Occupancy SHREVEPORT, LA

IF YOUR BUSINESS CLOSED DURING THE YEAR PLEASE NOTIFY: CITY OF SHREVEPORT, REVENUE DIVISION, P.O. BOX 30002, SHREVEPORT, LA 71130

(KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE)

A NEW CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE ZONING OFFICE; AND IF A"LIQUOR LICENSE" WAS ISSUED, PLEASE NOTIFY THE SHREVEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT, ABO OFFICE, IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OCCUR:

- 1. CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BUSINESS
- 2. CHANGE OWNERSHIP
- 3. MOVE OR OPEN A NEW LOCATION
- 4. EXPAND SERVICES OR FACILITIES AT THE PRESENT LOCATION



### The Council City of Shrebeport

ARTHUR G.THOMPSON CLERK OF COUNCIL POST OFFICE BOX 31109 SHREVEPORT, LA 71130

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Arthur,Thompson@ci.shreveport.la.us PHONE: (318) 673-5262 FAX: (318) 673-5270

December 4, 2013

Mr. Ronald J. Miciotto 628 Stoner Avenue Shreveport, LA 71101

Subject: BAC-145-13: Montessori School for Shreveport located on the SE corner of E Washington and C. E. Galloway Boulevard

Dear Mr. Miciotto:

Your appeal of the decision of the Shreveport Metropolitan Zoning Board of Appeals will be presented to the City Council at its regularly scheduled meeting at 3:00 p.m. on **Tuesday**, **January 14**, **2014**. On that date (or some later date) the Council will either affirm, modify, reverse or remand the decision rendered in the above referenced case.

You are further advised that you (or any other interested party) may submit additional written comments summarizing your position. In order for written comments to become a part of the record and be considered by the Council, all written comments must be submitted to this office (Government Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, LA 71101) no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014.

If you have any questions regarding this information, contact the Council Office at 673-5262.

Sincerely,

Arthur G. Thompson Clerk of Council

AGT:jkn

xc: Mr. Donald Wiener, Attorney (333 Texas Street, Suite 2350, Shreveport, LA 71101)
Mr. Oliver Jenkins, 505 Travis St. City Council Member District C. Shreveport LA 71101
Mr. Kevin McCotter, UL Coleman Co (207 Milam Street, Shreveport, LA 71101)
Mrs. Lisa Lobrano (716 Kimbrough, Shreveport, LA 71104)
Mr. Dlego Martinez (3635 Greenacres Place, Bossier City, LA 71111)
No slip filled out
Mrs. Kim Norris (538 Ratcliff, Shreveport, LA)
Mr. Joe McGaskey (4495 Pine Hill Road, Shreveport, LA 71107)
Mrs. Natalie Howell (493 Ockley, Shreveport, LA)
No slip filled out
Mrs. Lorine Spratt, Stoner Hill Action Group (503 E. Wichita Street, Shreveport, LA 71104)
Mrs. Angie Day, Montessori School (2605 CE Galloway, Shreveport, LA 71104)
No slip filled out
Dr. Mary Beth Valiulis (855 McCormick, Shreveport, LA 71104)
No slip filled out
Mrs. Wendy Smolke (224 Dana Lane, Bossier City, LA 71111)
No slip filled out
Mrs. Kimberly Kelly (12705 Denise, Keithville, LA)
No slip filled out
Mrs. Gina Mills (2600 Celebration Cove, Shreveport, LA 71109)
No slip filled out
Mr. Mark Patty (5111 Dixie Garden Drive, Shreveport, LA)
No slip filled out
Mr. Bob McCracken, Regional Manager B.I. Inc (605 E. Washington, Shreveport, LA 71104)
Mr. Justin Jones, Program Director B.I. Inc (605 E. Washington, Shreveport, LA 71104)
Mr. Terrance Stokes, Case Manager B.I. Inc (605 E. Washington, Shreveport, LA 71104)
Mrs. Rosalind Lindsey (2925 Abbey, Shreveport, LA 71103)
Mr. Ralph Dalton. Property owner (188 Morris Drive, Doyline, LA)
No slip filled out

# THE LAW OFFICE OF RONALD J. MICIOTTO 628 STONER AVENUE SHREVEPORT, LOUISIAN 71.10 FACSIMILE. (318)424-3730

TELEPHONE (318)424-0200

November 21, 2013

RECEIVED

Shreveport City Council
Clerk of City Council

NOV 21 2013

SHREVEPORT CITY COUNCIL

RE:

B I. INC MONITORING TECHNOLOGY

BAC-145-13

Dear Mr. Clerk:

I represent B I. INC MONITORING TECHNOLOGY. I am giving formal notice that B I. Inc, wishes to lodge an appeal of the decision rendered by the ZBA on November 13, 2013. The ZBA decision to revoke the Certificate of Occupancy issued by the City of Shreveport is patently illegal on many levels, however in particular for the following non-exclusive reasons:

- 1) The Certificate of Occupancy was issued on August 28, 2013. The appellant at the ZBA did not file their objection within 10 days of the Certificate of Occupancy being issued on August 28, 2013.
- 2) The appellant did not file their objection of the Certificate of Occupancy until October 15, 2013.
- 3) The ordinance allows for Rehabilitation Services under B-2. This facility is not a detention or correctional facility.

Please place this matter on the City Council agenda. The above issues and other issues will be raised on the appeal.

Last Carl Carl Mess []

Sincerely,

NOV 2 1 2013

METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

LD J. MICIOTTO

RJM/nmw

BAC-145-13

BOBBY JINDAL GOVERNOR



JAMES M. Le BLANC SECRETARY

### State of Louisiana

Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Division of Probation and Parole

RECEIVED

OCT I . 2013

METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

September 25, 2013

Metropolitan Planning Commission Attention: James Heard 505 Travis Street Shreveport, LA 71101

Dear Mr. Heard:

As per your request, I am writing to explain the purpose, mission and curriculum of the Shreveport Day Reporting Center, run by BI Inc., by contract with the State of Louisiana.

As you know, the Shreveport District Probation and Parole Office for the state of Louisiana is located at 2525 Yource Drive, Suite 300, Shreveport, Louisiana. We have been at this location in the community for 20 years, and are tasked with providing public safety for all and rehabilitation for those who choose to better themselves.

The Shreveport Day Reporting center is operated by a licensed counselor, and serves clients referred by the Shreveport District Office. These clients are living legally in the community. There are no sex offenders in the program.

The purpose of the program is educational and rehabilitative. Clients are taught how to dress for job interviews, how to speak to others, how to deal with stress. They work out of workbooks and complete homework assignments. They work on computers in the center, and can work on a GED, as well as complete assignments.

The goal and mission of the center is to graduate people with skills they did not have prior to entering the program, with jobs which make them contributing citizens of the community. Accomplishing these goals creates a safer, more productive environment for everyone.

Please feel free to contact me if further information is needed.

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Morgan District Administrator

Shreveport District Office

(318)676-7693

2525 Youree Drive • Suite 300 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71104 • (318) 676-7040 • Fax (318) 676-7032 www.doc.la.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer

DAC-145'13

605 E. Washington

From:

Alan Clarke

To:

Ione Dean

Date:

10/24/2013 12:11 PM

Subject:

Fwd: Re: Per our conversation, would you elaborate on how clients are assigned to the

facility on East Wa

#### >>> "Paulis, Greg" <Greg.Paulis@bi.com> 10/2/2013 9:59 AM >>>

The clients are NOT sentenced to this program. P and P and us decide who would benefit from learning rehabilitation skills such as appropriate dress, pro social behavioral skills, and job search skills. For example, a class is being taught on how to tie a tie. Let me know if you have further questions. Greq.

---- Original Message ----

From: Alan Clarke [mailto:Alan.Clarke@shreveportla.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 08:43 AM

To: Paulis, Greg

Subject: Per our conversation, would you elaborate on how clients are assigned to the facility on East

Washington?

Per our conversation, would you elaborate on how clients are assigned to the facility on East Washington?

Greg Paulis Area Manager

BI Incorporated, a GEO Group Company 6400 Lookout Rd Boulder CO 80301

Tel: 303-919-2266 \* Fax: 866-491-1187

Mobile: \* Toll Free

www.bi.com<http://www.bi.com>

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this message may be attorney-client privileged and/or confidential information. It is intended only for the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, electronic storage or use of this information is prohibited. If you received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original communication. Thank you.

#### WIENER, WEISS & MADISON

A Professional Corporation

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
333 TEXAS STREET, SUITE 2350
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101

U.S. Mail Address: P. O. BOX 21990 SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71120-1990 DONALD B. WIENER dwiener@wwnlaw.com Direct Dial No.(318) 213-9271 www.wwmlaw.com

Telephone (318) 226-9100 Ext.271 Telecopier (318) 424-5128

File No.:

October 15, 2013

#### BY HAND DELIVERY

Zoning Board of Appeals City of Shreveport, Metropolitan Planning Commission 505 Travis Street, Suite 440 Shreveport, LA 71101

Re:

Appeal of Issuance of Certificate of Occupancy Issued to BI Inc. Site: 605 East Washington Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71104

Dear Sirs and Madams:

We represent The Montessori School for Shreveport ("Montessori"), which is located at 2605 C E Galloway Blvd., Shreveport, Louisiana 71104.

As you are aware, BI Inc., or an affiliate thereof, is the current lessee of 605 East Washington Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71104 (the "Site"). We understand that the Site is being used for correctional, detention and/or penal purposes, including monitoring and training programs. In particular, I was told by Pamela Morgan, Probation and Parole District Administrator, Louisiana Department of Safety and Corrections, that the persons being served at the Site by BI Inc. are attending as a condition of their probation or parole. She also confirmed that failure by a parolee/probationer to attend mandated classes and other services located at the site pursuant to applicable court orders could result in the violator's return to incarceration. These facts were further confirmed to Angie Day, the Head of School for Montessori, by Greg Paulis, an officer of BI Inc., in a phone conversation on October 3, 2013. That conversation was recorded, and I would be glad to supply a copy or transcript of that conversation to the Board, if that would be helpful.

Section 106-679 of the Shreveport Zoning Code (Shreveport Code of Ordinances, Chapter 106) requires that correctional, detention and penal facilities be limited to B3 zoning, and then only with the approval of the Municipal Planning Commission and the City Council. The Site is zoned B2, and the use for correctional, detention and/or penal purposes was not separately approved by the MPC or City Council. Thus, BI Inc. should not have been issued a Certificate of Occupancy to use the Site for BI Inc.'s correctional, detention and/or penal services.

#### Wiener, Weiss & Madison

Zoning Board of Appeals October 15, 2013 Page 2

On behalf of our client and pursuant to Section 106-47 of the Shreveport Zoning Code, we hereby appeal the issuance to BI Inc. of the Certificate of Occupancy for the Site. If the Certificate of Occupancy was issued correctly for other purposes, we demand that the City of Shreveport enforce the correct, limited uses allowed in B2 zoning areas.

Please schedule our appeal for the next meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals, as this is an urgent safety issue for which time is of the essence.

Enclosed with this letter is a check in the amount of \$500.00 for the filing fee for this appeal.

Please call me if you have any questions. Please also call me to let me know when the appeal will be heard.

Very truly yours,

Donald B. Wiener For the Firm

Enclosure

cc: Angie Day

Ian Webb

#### MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

NOV 1 2013

METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

To: Shreveport Zoning Board of Appeals

From: Donald B. Wiener -- Wiener, Weiss & Madison, PLC

Date: November 1, 2013

Re: Appeal of Issuance of Certificate of Occupancy Issued to BI Inc.

Site: 605 East Washington Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71104

(ZBA Case No. BAC 145-13)

On November 13, 2013, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hear an appeal on behalf of The Montessori School For Shreveport of the Certificate of Occupancy described above (the "CO"). We represent the school and respectfully present this memorandum to assist in the evaluation of this matter.

As will be discussed below, this issue specifically turns on a simple interpretation of the zoning code. However, the necessity of correctly enforcing our zoning laws is critical in this situation. BI Inc. operates at the site one or more courses directed at the reintroduction of parolees and probationers into society — a noble goal. However, the site is directly across the street from The Montessori School For Shreveport, and it abuts an apartment complex in which many children reside. It is also across the street from a public school bus stop. Thus, the mandatory attendance of parolees and probationers at the BI training center has raised grave concern among the parents and other neighbors in the area.

It is important to grasp the nature of the clientele served by BI Inc. BI Inc.'s own website describes its Shreveport Day Reporting Program ("DRC") as follows:

"DRC programs will supplement supervision efforts of the Probation and Parole Division to manage higher risk parolees and probationers living in the community who are non-compliant with supervision requirements and are on the cusp of being sent back to jail." [emphasis added.]

These are not mere litter-bugs and j-walkers. These are not even the better among the parolee and probationer ranks. These are the higher risk, non-compliant criminals who are on the cusp of being sent back to jail. As we understand it, the parolees and probationers could be anything from shoplifters to drug dealers, gang members, robbers and murderers. Pamela Morgan, Louisiana State Probation and Parole District Administrator, assured the Montessori staff and Board of Trustees that no registered sex offenders are being treated at the BI site. But that current accommodation is not a certainty in the future. While Louisiana R.S. § 15:541(1) provides that a sex offender convicted of a sexual crime against a child under the age of 13 may not be within one thousand feet of a school, Subsection 15:541(5) then carves out an exception that could allow child molesters to attend classes at the BI site. In particular, that subsection reads, in part, as follows:

- (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Subsection, a requirement that a defendant not go in, on, or within one thousand feet of certain premises does not apply to a defendant while the defendant is in or going immediately to or from:
  - (a) A community supervision and corrections department office.
  - (b) Premises at which the defendant is participating in a program, activity or work required as a condition of community supervision.

Thus, if BI Inc. is allowed to keep its CO, then there will be no one – neither the City nor the ZBA – with authority to prevent BI from including child molesters in their classes in the future. To use a common phrase, the horse will be out of the barn. Thus, there is the potential of child molesters hanging around the BI facility or the public bus stop next to the Montessori School. A truly frightening possibility.

A representative from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections has assured the Montessori School that no registered sex offenders are being treated at the facility. That department has also pressured BI Inc. to contain the parolees and probationers within the facility's walls and fenced areas during breaks to lessen Montessori's concerns. The promises of BI and the State's officer helping spin this story seem genuine for the moment. On the other hand, the CO's lifespan is potentially indefinite, while the promises and institutional memory of BI and the Department of Corrections are ephemeral. Once the neighborhood's focus is lessened, promises, no matter how sincere and well-intended when made, are likely to fade away as other issues, budgetary concerns and profits move to the forefront. And once the CO is confirmed, no one will have standing to contest the broken promises.

The Montessori School favors rehabilitation of parolees and probationers, but in the appropriate locations. Zoning laws exist for a reason. For example, Greg Paulis, Regional Manager for BI Inc., recently made the following comment to Angie Day, the Head of School of the Montessori School in regard to BI's Shreveport office:

MRS. DAY: No, no. You said if you were a parent, you wouldn't want it either.

MR. PAULIS: Well, because I live in a -- well, I guess, I'd say my area, I live in a pretty nice suburb of Denver, and we never, it would never be allowed in my area. The zoning wouldn't allow for it in my area. Plus, it wouldn't be appropriate to be in my area. I mean, I live in what's -- pretty, you know, it's, it's a kind of, it would be a pretty, pretty, it would be horrible for the bus line. I don't even think we have bus service in my neighborhood.

Mr. Paulis is correct in his reliance on zoning rules in his city to protect his family. We ask for the same respect for the wisely designed zoning districts created by Shreveport. Thus, we now turn to the technical mistake made when issuing the CO.

The zoning code for Shreveport directly addresses what should and should not be allowed at the BI site. Section 106-679 of the Shreveport Zoning Code (Shreveport Code of Ordinances, Chapter 106) requires that **correctional**, **detention and penal** facilities be limited to B-3 zoning, and then only with the approval of the Metropolitan Planning Commission and the City Council. The BI site is zoned B-2, and the use for correctional, detention and/or penal purposes was <u>not</u> separately approved by the MPC or City Council. Thus, BI Inc. should not have been issued a Certificate of Occupancy to use the Site for BI Inc.'s correctional, detention and/or penal services.

The CO was issued, we believe, on the mistaken understanding that the services BI is providing at its site are not correctional, detentional or penal. Instead, the services are, we believe, being shoe-horned into another provision. Zoning Code Section 106-618 provides for certain uses by right in B-1 districts, subject to the conditions specified. We believe the grant of the CO was made on the belief that BI's use would be as a limited "rehabilitation center." But a closer reading of Section 106-618 reveals a limitation on the use by right. The subparagraph reads:

Sec. 106-618. - Same—Uses by right.

The uses listed below are permitted in B-1 districts, subject to the conditions specified:

Social services, including community center, institution for children, aged, or the handicapped; rehabilitation center <u>but excluding detention or correctional facility</u>. [emphasis added.]

So certain rehabilitation facility/services are allowed at sites zoned B-1 and higher. But the City has consistently defined correctional, detention and penal facilities/services for purposes of Sections 106-618 and 106-679 as those at which attendance is mandatory. In particular, attendance is mandatory, as opposed to voluntary, if failure to attend could result in reincarceration. This obvious interpretation has been applied consistently by the Shreveport City Council and MPC staff a myriad of times over decades. For example, we understand that the City has denied certificates of occupancy for every application for a half-way house in a B-1 or B-2 zoned location, and the City has required separate MPC and City Council approval for half-way houses in B-3 zones.

According to Pamela Morgan, Probation and Parole District Administrator, the failure of a parolee or probationer to attend and complete a BI workshop at the site could result in reincarceration. Indeed, that is exactly why BI's website describes the Shreveport site as being for those "on the cusp of being sent back to jail." Greg Paulis, BI Inc. Regional Manager, confirmed

BAC-145-13

that fact in the following recent statement he made to Angie Day, Head of School of the Montessori School:

MRS. DAY: ... When someone is expelled from the program, what happens to them then?

MR. PAULIS: When they're expelled from the program it depends. It depends on what, you know, their probation or parole officer does with them. Ordinarily, they go for, they will do a jail sentence, they'll go to a, they'll pop them in jail for a weekend, maybe up to five days, and then they come back.

MRS, DAY: Yeah.

MR. PAULIS: Or they may just be in the parole office and they finally say enough –

MRS. DAY: Yeah.

MR. PAULIS: -- I'm done with you. Now, you know, I'm certain that, you know, I'm certain that they, certain people will end up back in prison. [emphasis added.]

We are aware that in issuing the CO to BI the City staff may have understood BI's activities to be merely rehabilitational. We believe that the staff was either unaware of the mandatory nature of the classes provided, or did not appreciate the distinction in the law between rehabilitational and correctional services. All correctional services might be viewed as rehabilitational. But the label of rehabilitational does not necessarily exclude the label of correctional. For example, ten years of solitary confinement at Angola Prison might be viewed as rehabilitional, but it is also correctional (and detentional and penal). Thus, while BI's classes for parolees and probationers might be rehabilitational, the classes are also correctional. Thus, B-3 zoning and separate approvals should have been obtained before the CO was issued.

#### WIENER, WEISS & MADISON

A Professional Corporation

ATTORNEYS AT LAW 333 TEXAS STREET, SUITE 2350 SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101

U.S. Mail Address: P. O. BOX 21990 SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71120-1990 DONALD B. WIENER
dwiener@wwmlaw.com
Direct Dial No.(318) 213-9271
www.swmlaw.com

Telephone (318) 226-9100 Ext.271 Telecopier (318) 424-5128

File No .:

November 1, 2013

#### BY HAND DELIVERY

Zoning Board of Appeals City of Shreveport, Metropolitan Planning Commission 505 Travis Street, Suite 440 Shreveport, LA 71101

Re:

Appeal of Issuance of Certificate of Occupancy Issued to BI Inc. Site: 605 East Washington Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71104

(ZBA Case No. BAC 145-13)

Dear Sirs and Madams:

We represent The Montessori School for Shreveport ("Montessori"), which is located at 2605 C E Galloway Blvd., Shreveport, Louisiana 71104. Enclosed with this letter are nine copies of a Memorandum explaining why The Montessori School for Shreveport believes the Certificate of Occupancy in question should be revoked. Please give one copy to each ZBA member so that they may understand our position on this matter prior to the hearing. We believe that should allow the hearing to progress efficiently.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Donald B. Wiener

For the Firm

Enclosures

cc: Greg Paulis, BI Inc.

RECEIVED

NOV 1 2013

METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

#### BARROW PEACOCK STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 37



COMMITTEES

Labor and industrial Relations

Retirement

November 8, 2013

MPC Zoning Board of Appeals City of Shreveport, Metropolitan Planning Commission 505 Travis St., Suite 440 Shreveport, LA 71101

Re: Appeal of Issuance of Certificate of Occupancy Issued to BI, Inc. Site: 605 East Washington St.
Shreveport, LA 71104
(ZBA Case No. BAC 145-13)

Dear Honorable Members,

Constituents of Senate District 37 have issues about the above-referenced Certificate of Occupancy and concern for their childrens' safety at the Montessori School for Shreveport. This location is directly across the street from the school and the playground where the children have outdoor activities.

I am writing to support the Montessori School for Shreveport and the parents' appeal for the revoking of BI, Incorporated's Certificate of Occupancy at 605 East Washington St. It has been brought to my attention that the zoning code requires that correctional, detention and penal facilities be limited to B3 zoning and then only with the approval of the MPC and City Council. The site is zoned B2 and the use for correctional, detention and/or penal purposes has not been separately approved by the MPC or City Council. Thus BI, Incorporated should not have been issued a Certificate of Occupancy to use the site for this purpose.

I respectfully request that you revoke the Certificate of Occupancy for BI, Incorporated at 605 East Washington Street. I appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Barrow Peacock

Senate District 37

November 11, 2013

City of Shreveport City Council Zoning Board of Appeals 505 Travis Street Suite 440 Shreveport, LA 71101

RECEIVED

CC: Montessori School of Shreveport, Mayor Cedric Glover, Councilman Jeff Everson

NOV I I 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

METROPOLITAN PLANNING
COMMISSION

I am a concerned parent of two children at Montessori School of Shreveport on C.E. Galloway, and I am also a practicing psychiatrist in Shreveport. It has come to my attention that the building across the street from our playground, the corner of East Washington and Anderson, has been leased to a company that runs a rehabilitative program for persons on probation and/or parole. I request this zoning to be changed in order to ensure the safety of this community's children which include, but is not limited to the following.

- The Montessori School of Shreveport students.
- . The students who ride a Caddo Parish school bus which picks up ten feet from the front door of this building.
- The students who ride a Caddo Parish school bus which picks up across the street from this building.
- The children in the apartment complex next to this building, whose playground is visible from the building and only separated by a fence.
- The children and caretakers who use the City of Shreveport bus stop located near this building.
- Students who attend Caddo Magnet High School and E.B. Williams Stoner Hill Elementary Lab School passing this building
  daily.
- Students participating in after school activities.
- Students who walk or ride their bicycles to school, either at Montessori School of Shreveport or the nearby Caddo Parish
- The parents, grandparents and caretakers who drop off and pick up at Montessori School of Shreveport. The carpool lane lies in front of this building.

I believe that this program is needed for our community, but do not agree with the location of the facility. As a psychiatrist, I personally feel that a person who has previously been incarcerated for any number of crimes is capable of a relapse at any time, as the recidivism rate is high among prisoners. I do feel that the people who attend meetings at this facility should be given opportunities to better themselves for the sake of the community. However, I feel that their presence so close to multiple play areas for children is dangerous for the children and community.

Are you willing to accept the responsibility for any incident which harms or places fear in the children or community due to this facilities' location? I strongly ask for a reevaluation of the zoning permits and requirements concerning this property and the area around it for the facilities' purposes. I only hope that you appeal this zoning to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all the children and community.

Appeal of Issuance of Certificate of Occupancy Issues to Bi Inc. Site: 605 East Washington Street, Shreveport, LA 71104 (ZBA Case No. BAC 145-13). We believe the zoning code for Shreveport addresses what should and should not be allowed at a particular location. We believe the business that is currently being conducted is not in accordance with our current zoning laws and request a review for determination.

Mary Beth Valiulis, M.D.

BAC-145-13



#### CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

#### MATTHEW LINN

3030 CRESWELL AVENUE SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71104 COMMISSIONER-DISTRICT 4

505 TRAVIS STREET SHREVEPORTLA 71101 OFC. (318) 226-6596 CELL (318) 402-1132 BUS (318) 425-3862

To: Zoning Board of Appeals

Date: November 11, 2013

Re: Appeal of Issuance of Certificate of Occupancy issued to Bl Inc. Site: 605 East Washington Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71104

Dear Sirs.

It is my understanding after discussion with MPC Staff that a certificate of occupancy was given to a State of Louisiana contracted company based out of Colorado to service parolees across the street from an elementary school and at the gateway to one of our neighborhoods.

This is unacceptable. I strongly urge you to revoke the certificate of occupancy given to the service of convicted felons.

In the present, MPC, Shreveport City Counsel and the Caddo Parish Commission are rewriting the codes for which these types of mistakes are interpreted and misapplied. It is my hope that when the Unified Development Code is rewritten and adopted by both Caddo Parish and The City of Shreveport that this type of mistake is easier to recognize before everyone looks as bad as the MPC director and staff does today.

It is with great resolve that I ask for you to protect the children of the Anderson Island Neighborhood as well as the students age 21 months through 8<sup>th</sup> grade that attend Montessori School less than 75 feet away from the offending state agency.

Thank you for this consideration,

Matthew Linn

RECEMBED

NON BEORGIS

OPPOSITION

Greetings to all,

METROFACHANAMONG

I am writing to express my deep concern over BI, Inc., Behavioral Intervention, being recently relocated from Line Avenue to 605 East Washington in a building directly across the street from my children's school, The Montessori School for Shreveport. The business rehabilitates persons on probation and/or parole. According to Ms. Pamela Morgan, District Manager of Probation and Parole for the State of Louisiana, the probationers/parolees have committed crimes such as: robbery, drugs, weaponry, etc. The fact that these known criminals are so close to our children, putting them at a safety risk, is appalling to me. Please join me in my mission to keep our children from becoming statistics/victims of these persons. Please help me to have this business immediately removed from the building across the street from our children.

I, along with Mark Patty, former law enforcement officer and fellow school parent, understand and applaud any of the individuals reporting to the Center for taking steps to improve their circumstances. We also applaud the business for helping probationers and parolees reenter society (particularly those that have already violated the terms of their probation or parole) and teaching them skills to help them enter the workforce and become productive citizens. However, the attendees are required to report daily to the Center, which puts them an uncomfortably close proximity to our school's children/playground on a daily basis. Statistically, the rate of recidivism, alone, dictates that locating a reporting center in such close proximity to a school is not appropriate. Mark Patty has spoken with Pam Morgan who oversees the Center. According to her, the probationers and parolees are supervised while at the Center, however all supervision is performed by civilian employees and not POST-Certified Law Enforcement Officers. No supervision occurs while in transit to or from the Center. It is utter foolishness to ignore such a history of criminal behavior, and to have these people so close to a school is unacceptable. For these obvious reasons, the BI, Inc. business should not be located across the street from my children's school or any children's school.

Mark Patty investigated Bl, Inc. and found a link, (
<a href="http://bi.com/Louisiana">http://bi.com/Louisiana</a> DOC to Opening in Shreveport) to an original press release concerning the opening of the center and its goals. In reviewing it, he found two statements particularly disconcerting:

"DRC programs will supplement supervision efforts of the Probation and Parole Division to manage higher risk parolees and probationers living in the community who are non-compliant with supervision requirements and are on the cusp of being sent back to jail."

And...

"BI's Day Reporting and Reentry centers provide a three-phase approach with high-risk parolees and probationers who previously have failed conditions of release and have proven through a risk and needs assessment to be resistant to change and treatment."

An additional link ( <a href="http://bi.com/news/binews/violators given second chance">http://bi.com/news/binews/violators given second chance</a>) to another press release indicates that some of the convictions of those attending the Center include weapons and drug charges. Surely his, my, and other parents' apprehension is understandable.

Pagel 13 3 BAC-145-13

My children, Lauren and Ryan, 7 and 4 years old, have attended the school since they were in the toddler program at 2 years old. As a parent, it is my first priority to have my children at a safe location while attending school. Before the Behavioral Intervention, Incorporated leased the building across the street from our school, I felt that my children were safe. However, I have witnessed seeing several parolees/probationers congregating outside the BI, Inc. across the street from our school, which has made me feel uneasy, anxious, and concerned. For me as a parent, I believe that it is completely inappropriate to have people who have had been to jail for drugs, theft, weaponry, anger management, etc. be in close proximity to a school location where there are children as young as 2 years old. As we all know, children are innocent young people who have no understanding that there are "bad" people in the world and have no means of defending/keeping themselves safe against them. Even with the best safety measures, I feel that our children are at risk of being possible victims of these rehabilitating parolees/probationers. Let us not be a statistics in allowing our children be so accessible to such rehabilitating drug users, thieves, and people with anger management problems. Let us prevent such tragedies that could happen from these rehabilitating persons being in such close proximity to our school and children. Please know that I, as a parent, will not rest until this business is relocated to an appropriate location away from our innocent children.

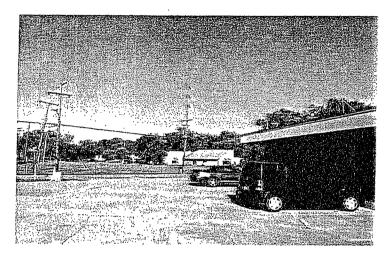
I am also concerned about the future of The Montessori School for Shreveport. Because of the recent relocation of the rehabilitation business across the street from our school, I believe that parents won't even consider sending their children to the school for fears that their children would be unsafe. I also believe that if the location isn't relocated soon, current children of the school will be removed and sent to other schools with safer locations. For the school to fail, due to the close proximity of the rehabilitation business, would be devastating. The Montessori School for Shreveport is one of the oldest Montessori schools in the United States. It was founded in the fall of 1964 as a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation run by a Board of Trustees elected from the parent body. The school has programs for children from 21 months through the eighth grade and serves youngsters from diverse socio-economic, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. The exceptionally bright, the average, and the academically challenged have all blossomed under the individualized approach of the Montessori philosophy. The Montessori School for Shreveport is accredited by the American Montessori Society and is at the forefront of Montessori education in Louisiana. Each classroom is guided by a certified American Montessori Society (AMS) teacher who has been specifically trained for the ages of the children he or she is instructing. As a parent of children who have attended the school since the age of 2, I can't express enough how lucky we are to have such a superior school available in Shreveport. Please allow our school to continue to grow and thrive by demanding the relocation of BI, Inc. away from our school to an appropriate location.

I, along with Mark Patty and many other school parents, am not a representative of the Montessori School of Shreveport, nor am I in a position of power. What I am is a very concerned mother. Please, if any of you can offer a solution, I look forward to your prompt response. Continued operation of the Center at its current location is simply not acceptable. Thank You.

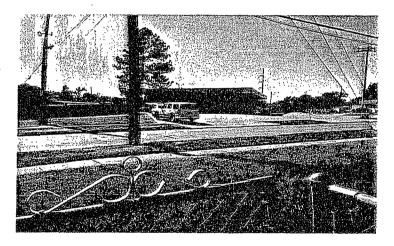
Karyn Triche 318-470-2833 (and Eric Triche 318-393-2998)

page 263

Attached below are pictures of BI, Inc. in relation to the school. The first picture shows BI, Inc. as the closest (stone front) building on the right with cars parked in the front. The white school buildings/playground of The Montessori School for Shreveport is directly across the street from BI, Inc. The second picture shows the view of BI, Inc., once again, directly across the street from The Montessori School for Shreveport and playground.



Picture 1: View from BI, Inc. to The Montessori School for Shreveport



Picture 2: View from The Montessori School for Shreveport's playground to BI, Inc.

page 383

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NOV 1 3 2013

METROPOLITAN PLANNING
COMMISSION



# OPPOSITION

#### The Council City of Shrebeport

JEFFREY S. EVERSON COUNCILMAN DISTRICT "B" P.O. Box 31109 SHREVEPORT, LA 71130 318-673-5289

November 13, 2013

Mr. Alan Berry ZBA, Chairman 702 Prospect Shreveport, LA 71104

Dear Mr. Berry:

"Several weeks ago I began receiving complaints from residents of Stoner Hill and Anderson Island as well as parents of students attending Byrd (who wait for the bus at the site in question), Stoner Hill Elementary and Montessori School about the activity taking place at BI, Inc. I was shocked to hear about the activities that were described to me.

I am shocked that the zoning office allowed a Certificate of Occupancy to be issued to BI, Inc. to run its prisoner training programs at the gateway/intersection of two residential areas, next to a school, down the street from another, at the bus stop for another school and adjacent to an apartment complex. Although BI, Inc. may think the neighborhood is blighted, it is not and I am offended by BI, Inc. suggesting it is.

In any event, the Zoning Code clearly does not allow such activities at that site, which is zoned B-2. Apparently, this fell through the cracks, but that is why we have a ZBA. I strongly encourage the Zoning Board of Appeals to revoke the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy given to BI, Inc."

Jeff Everson

City Councilman, District B

E-COPY: Charles Kirkland

Ione Dean Terri Scott

BAC-145-13

# METROPOLITAN SHREVEPORT ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING NOVEMBER 13, 2013

A regularly scheduled public hearing was held by the Metropolitan Shreveport Zoning Board of Appeals on Wednesday, November 13, 2013, at 1:00 p.m., at Government Plaza Chamber, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA. Members meet for lunch prior to the public hearing.

Members Present Alan Berry, Chairman Betty Osborn, Secretary Jason Waltman Eddie Cooper Rick Holland

Members Absent Stacy Williams, Jr., Vice Chairman Robert Stewart

#### Staff Present

Roy Jambor, Senior Planner Alan Clarke, Zoning Administrator Ione Dean, Senior Planner Diane Tullos, Office Administrator Dara Sanders, Master Plan Administrator Sandi Austin, Board's Coordinator Stephen Jean, Senior Planner

Others Present
Terri A. Scott, City Attorney
Corp. Russell Collins, SPD Channel 3

Bus Tour Tour was cancelled; members were encouraged to tour sites.

#### CHAIRMAN'S OPENING COMMENTS

The meeting was called to order and the procedure for hearing the applications on today's agenda was explained. Speakers were requested to give their name, mailing address, and to speak clearly into the microphone for the benefit of those present.

All decisions rendered by the Zoning Board of Appeals are subject to appeal to the appropriate governing body, either the City Council or the Caddo Parish Commission. Appeals must be filed within 10 days from the date a decision is rendered by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Comments on any item not on the agenda nor scheduled for public hearing on this date, will be limited to 3 minutes and heard prior to the Board's deliberations session.

#### ▶ APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by MR. COOPER, seconded by MR. WALTMAN to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2013 public hearing as submitted.

The motion was adopted by the following 5-0 vote: Ayes: Messrs. HOLLAND, COOPER, BERRY, WALTMAN and Mrs. OSBORN. Nays: None. Absent: Messrs. STEWART and WILLIAMS.

CASE NO. BAC-145-13: 605 E. Washington MONTESSORI SCHOOL FOR SHREVEPORT Raiph Joe Dalton SE corner of E. Washington & CE Galloway Blvd. Administrative Appeal in a B-2 District Appealing the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy

Representative and/or support:
Mr. Donald Wiener, Attorney (333 Texas Street, Suite 2350, Shreveport, LA 71101)
Mr. Kevin McCotter, UL Coleman Co (207 Milam Street, Shreveport, LA 71101)
Mrs. Lisa Lobrano (716 Kimbrough, Shreveport, LA 71104)
Mr. Diego Martinez (3635 Greenacres Place, Bossier City, LA 71111) No slip filled out
Mrs. Kim Norris (538 Ratcliff, Shreveport, LA)
Mr. Joe McGaskey (4495 Pine Hill Road, Shreveport, LA 71107)
Mrs. Natalie Howell (493 Ockley, Shreveport, LA) No slip filled out
Mrs. Natalie Howell (493 Ockley, Shreveport, LA) No slip filled out
Mrs. Natalie Howell (493 Ockley, Shreveport, LA) No slip filled out
Mrs. Angie Day, Montessori School (2605 CE Galloway, Shreveport, LA 71104) No slip filled out
Mrs. Angie Day, Montessori School (2605 CE Galloway, Shreveport, LA 71104) No slip filled out
Mrs. Wendy Smolke (224 Dana Lane, Bossier City, LA 71111) No slip filled out
Mrs. Kimberly Kelly (12705 Denise, Keithville, LA) No slip filled out
Mrs. Gina Mills (2600 Celebration Cove, Shreveport, LA 71109) No slip filled out
Mrs. Gina Mills (2600 Celebration Cove, Shreveport, LA) No slip filled out
Mr. Mark Patty (5111 Dixie Garden Drive, Shreveport, LA) No slip filled out

Don't want high-risk parolees as described on the B.I. website near their childrens' school and bus stop

B-2 zoning designation does not allow this type of activity; has to be located in B-3

Although there are allegedly no sex offenders in this program, the website says the program is for "people who are resistant to change and treatment"

The Descriptors of Carrections at the that these are mendators allowed. treatment"

The Department of Corrections states that these are mandatory classes
 Apartment complex nearby and there is concern that this use is not suitable in a "family friendly environment"

Speaking in opposition:

Mr. Ron Miclotto. Attorney (628 Stoner, Shreveport, LA)

Mr. Bob McCracken, Regional Manager B.I. Inc (605 E. Washington, Shreveport, LA 71104)

Mr. Gregory Paulis, Regional Manager B.I. Inc (6400 Lookout Road, Boulder, CO 80301)

Mr. Justin Jones, Program Director B.I. Inc (605 E. Washington, Shreveport, LA 71104)

Mr. Terrance Stokes, Case Manager B.I. Inc (605 E. Washington, Shreveport, LA 71104)

Mrs. Rosalind Lindsey (2925 Abbey, Shreveport, LA 71103)

Mr. Ralph Dalton, Property owner (188 Morris Drive, Doyline, LA) No slip filled out

People aren't "sentenced" to this program; as a condition of their probation they may be ordered to attend

The clients are taught employment skills, relapse prevention, community integration, etc., in a classroom environment with a structured curriculum which includes working in workbooks, parenting skills, moral reconation therapy, life skills, out patient substance abuse therapy, motivational speakers, change orientation therapy, tips on constructing a resume and dressing and interviewing for jobs.

Emotion needs to be set aside and the laws followed. B.I. Inc relied on the rules of law when they applied and received the Certificate of Occupancy. No information was hidden, there are no sex offenders in this program and it is not a half-way house.

Mrs. Day at Montessori School, the parents, and Attorney Don Wiener were invited to tour the facility. None did. The program hours were changed to not interfere with times the children were coming to and leaving the school. The clients are walked to a bus stop on Youree Drive so they are not by the Montessori School there are 28 registered sex offenders:

1 out of 33 people are on parole or probation, that means there are roughly 3 people in the audience who are on parole or probation

This program attempts to rehabilitate those people in danger of falling back into "the life"; they have been living in the community for some time and are strugaling.

This program attempts to rehabilitate those people in danger of falling back into "the life"; they have been living in the community for some time and are struggling.
All of their clients are referred either by Probation or Parole
Their previous day reporting center was located at the corner of Line and Jordan – close to 3 schools and there has never been a complaint in the 3 years it was located there.
Clients are supervised while on break and outside cameras monitor and record all 4 sides of this building.
Pamela Morgan, District Administrator with the LA Department of Corrections, Division of Probation and Parole sent a letter to the MPC staff which stated in part "The Shreveport Day Reporting Center is operated by a licensed counselor, and serves clients referred by the Shreveport District Office. These clients are living legally in the community. There are no sex offenders in the program. The purpose of the program is educational and rehabilitative."

Rebuttal: (Mr. Wiener)

B.I. Inc's website says that this program is a mandatory condition of probation or parole
 He submitted a court order showing revocation of probation for non-attendance
 The recidivism rate in LA is 50%

Comments by Alan Clarke, MPC"s Zoning Administrator:

• We thoroughly researched this matter, including our ordinance, and met with the LA Department of Corrections and B.I., Inc employees prior to

issuing the Certificate of Occupancy.

Staff determined that this facility was not "a penal institute or correctional facility" but a rehabilitation center. We visited the center to confirm this. The Department of Corrections shared with us that people who come and go as they please are not in a correctional facility.

A motion was made by MR. COOPER, seconded by MRS. OSBORN to approve the appeal of the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy to B.I. Incorporated.

(Discussion)

B.I. Inc is in this business to make money; it is not in their best interests to adversely impact the neighborhood or school.

There was substantial discussion on the ordinance interpretation of the definition of "correctional facility" versus "detention facility" and incarceration,

This program is an attempt to benefit the community be offering training to those in need to help facilitate re-entry into society

The only way you can participate in this program is to be under the supervision of the State; they are not free "to come and go". If they quit the program, they have to go back to jail.

The motion was adopted by the following 5-0 vote: Ayes: Messrs. HOLLAND, COOPER, BERRY, WALTMAN and Mrs. OSBORN. Nays: None. Absent: Messrs. STEWART and WILLIAMS.



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UL Coleman Company, Ltd.
UL Coleman Properties, LLC, AMO®
Sequoia Construction, LLC

JAN 07 2014

Commercial Brokerage & Leasing Asset & Property Management Construction & Development

#### SHREVEPORT CITY COUNCIL

January 7, 2014

Mr. Arthur G. Thompson Clerk of Council P.O. Box 31109 Shreveport, Louisiana 71130

Subject: BAC-145-13: Montessori School for Shreveport located on the SE corner of E. Washington and C.E. Galloway Boulevard

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Please receive this letter for inclusion as part of the record for the City of Shreveport City Council meeting at 3:00 p.m. on January 14, 2014.

On behalf of U.L. Coleman Properties, Ltd., please accept this letter as a recommendation to affirm the Shreveport Metropolitan Zoning Board of Appeals' decision of November 13, 2013 that supported the Montessori School's appeal of issuance of a certificate of occupancy to BI, Inc. located at 605 E. Washington Street. U.L. Coleman Properties, Ltd. is the owner and manager of the Millbrook Apartments located at 611 E. Washington. Millbrook Apartments consist of 86 high-quality, multifamily residential living units that fill a major void for apartment living in this particular sector of the City.

The current location of BI, Inc. at 605 E. Washington is zoned B2 and since the lessee uses the building for correctional, detention and/or penal purposes, we believe the building should be zoned B3 as required by Section 106-679 of the Shreveport Zoning Code (Shreveport Code of Ordinances, Chapter 106.) The Shreveport Metropolitan Zoning Board of Appeals obviously agreed with that assertion based on its November 13, 2013 decision.

Our other concerns with the location of Bl, Inc at 605 E. Washington include:

- Directly behind the 605 E. Washington building is the swimming pool and playground area of Millbrook Apartments which is enjoyed by our resident children and adults.
- There are a total of 56 children under the age of 18 who live in the Millbrook Apartments. Our Millbrook children attend area Caddo Parish schools and utilize

Mr. Arthur G. Thompson January 7, 2014 Page 2

three different school bus stops in the vicinity of 605 E. Washington including two school bus stops at the intersection of 605 E. Washington and C.E. Galloway Boulevard. School buses are picking up and dropping off students who attend Shreve Island and Riverside Elementary Schools, Broadmoor Middle Lab and Byrd and Magnet High Schools.

 We believe the Millbrook Apartments serve as a solid residential anchor to the vicinity of E. Washington and Youree Drive. If BI, Inc. is permitted to retain its occupancy in this area, we believe the children-friendly neighborhood environment will be threatened.

Thank you for your service to the City of Shreveport and thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Scotty Jones

**Executive Vice President** 

# Stoner Hill Action Group

December 27, 2013

The Shreveport City Council Government Plaza – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor 505 Travis Street Shreveport, LA 71101

Dear City Council Members,

We, the members of the Stoner Hill Action Group along with the residents of the Stoner Hill neighborhood, agree with the decision of the Shreveport Metropolitan Zoning Board of Appeals made in favor of BAC-145-13: Montessori School for Shreveport located on the SE corner of E. Washington and C. E. Galloway Blvd.

We believe that the location of BI Inc. in our neighborhood blights it for potential businesses and will become a deterrent for new residential constructions which we are, at present, encouraging in our neighborhood. The potential hazards that BI Inc. poses for the students of the elementary schools and high school in the area should be taken into serious consideration along with the fact that BI Inc. never sought out the residents of Stoner Hill or any member of the Stoner Hill Action Group to address the possibility of them placing their business in our neighborhood. It is usual and customary for most businesses do so out of respect and common courtesy for the residents of the neighborhood as a good neighbor gesture. Obviously BI Inc. felt we did not deserve such respect and courtesy which is also evident in the way they are seeking to stay in our neighborhood against our better judgment for our community.

Therefore, we ask that you <u>affirm</u> the decision of the Shreveport Metropolitan Zoning Board of Appeals on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

The Stoner Hill Action Group
Willie Pratt—President
Lovine Spratt—Vice President
Jackie Holland—Secretary
Mary Dowey-Treasurer